

## House Resolution 1459

By: Representatives Collins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Talton of the 145<sup>th</sup>, Sellier of the 136<sup>th</sup>, Yates of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, O`Neal of the 146<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Chaplain Donald G. Smith on the occasion of his retirement;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Chaplain Donald G. Smith has long been recognized by the citizens of this state  
4 and nation as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication to the preservation of the  
5 principles of democracy; and

6 WHEREAS, Chaplain Smith earned a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master  
7 of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and attended Squadron  
8 Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College; and

9 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
10 States Army as an Army Counterintelligence Special Agent with tours of duty in South  
11 Vietnam and Washington, D.C.; and

12 WHEREAS, Chaplain Smith was ordained in 1972 and served as pastor of Southern Baptist  
13 churches in Texas for 17 years and as an evangelist radio personality for ten years before  
14 receiving a direct commission in 1981 as a mobilization augmentee chaplain for the Tactical  
15 Air Command; and

16 WHEREAS, he retires from his current position as Command Chaplain for Headquarters, Air  
17 Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, where he advises the  
18 commander and vice commander of the Air Force Reserve on religious, ethical, and quality  
19 of life issues; and

20 WHEREAS, Chaplain Smith has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades  
21 during his prestigious career, including a Bronze Star Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal  
22 with four oak leaf clusters, an Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, an

23 Army Commendation Medal, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two oak leaf  
24 clusters, and an Air Force Organization Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster; and

25 WHEREAS, during his tenure as Command Chaplain, he increased annual training 100% for  
26 the Air Force Reserve Chaplain Corps, set the record for the number of chaplains recruited  
27 and reappointed in a year, oversaw a 75% growth in the Chaplain Candidate Program, and  
28 has been recognized as the foremost authority on Air Force Reserve Chaplain Corps matters;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the members of this body show their  
31 gratitude for the unique and often unheralded contributions of Chaplain Smith and all  
32 members of the military on behalf of the citizens of this state and nation.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
34 the members of this body recognize the selfless dedication exhibited by Chaplain Donald G.  
35 Smith in carrying out the difficult duties of his vocation; commend his efficient, effective,  
36 unselfish, and dedicated public service to the citizens of his country; and congratulate him  
37 on the grand occasion of his retirement.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Chaplain Donald G. Smith.